Australian Bureau of Statistics

1216.0 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), July 2011

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Summary

Main Features

PURPOSE OF THE ASGC

The main purpose of the ASGC is for collecting and disseminating geographically classified statistics. These are statistics with a ‘where’ dimension.

The ASGC provides a common framework of statistical geography which enables the production of statistics that are comparable and can be spatially integrated.

In practice, statistical units such as households and businesses are first assigned to a geographical area in one of the ASGC structures. Data collected from these statistical units are then compiled into ASGC defined geographic aggregations which, subject to confidentiality restrictions, are then available for publication.

The purposes of this publication are to outline the ASGC structures, describe the codes and names of geographical areas used and depict the statistical relationship between different types of geography used in the classification.

ENQUIRIES

For information regarding the ASGC and the ASGS, please refer to the ABS Geography web portal at abs.gov.au/geography or, contact ABS Geography by email geography@abs.gov.au or by writing to Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616.

For information about related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Preface

PREFACE

This is the final edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). It has been used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) since 1984 for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. It is an essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographical context of statistics published by the ABS.

The ASGC provides seven hierarchies of geographical areas. Each structure is designed to suit different statistical purposes. This edition has four current structures. The Main Structure and the Statistical Region Structure cover the whole of Australia. The Local Government Area Structure

and the Statistical District Structure cover only part of Australia. The three remaining structures, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State and Remoteness Structures, have not been included as Census Collection Districts are no longer defined. These structures are now defined in the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

The ASGS has been released concurrently with the ASGC to ensure a smooth transition to the new statistical geography. The ASGS and the ASGC will both be current for 2011 however, from 1 July 2012 the ASGS will replace the ASGC.

The ASGS brings all the regions for which the ABS publishes statistics within the one framework and will be used by the ABS for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics progressively from 1 July 2011. The ASGS is a more comprehensive, flexible and consistent way of defining Australia's statistical geography.

For further information regarding the ASGC and the ASGS, please refer to the ABS Geography web portal at abs.gov.au/geography or, contact ABS Geography by email geography@abs.gov.au or by writing to Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616.

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About this Release

A classification system, designed and maintained by the ABS, which divides Australia into geographical areas for the purpose of collecting and disseminating statistics. It provides details of the statistical geographical areas effective at 1 July 2011 and includes maps of these areas.

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

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Classification Structures

CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURES

The interrelated classification structures of the 2011 ASGC are:

- Main Structure
- Local Government Area Structure
- Statistical District Structure

- Statistical Region Structure

Each structure serves a specific purpose and is individually discussed in this publication.

Historically in Census of Population and Housing years (e.g. 1996, 2001, 2006), all structures of the ASGC are defined. In intercensal years, only the first four structures are defined. As this is the final edition of the ASGC, only limited structures will be available for 2011: the Main Structure, the Local Government Area Structure, the Statistical District Structure and the Statistical Region Structure.

The three remaining structures, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State and Remoteness Structures, have not been included as Census Collection Districts are no longer defined. These structures are now defined in the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

The Main Structure and the Statistical Region Structure cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The Local Government Area and the Statistical District Structures cover only part of Australia. The structures are hierarchical, with different structures having different numbers of levels (see Table 1). Each hierarchical level is made up of one type of geographical spatial unit. The spatial units at each higher level are aggregations of the spatial units at the previous lower level.

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Spatial Units

SPATIAL UNITS

The various geographical areas, or spatial units, which build the different classification structures are as follows:

- Statistical Local Area (SLA)
- Statistical Subdivision (SSD)
- Statistical Division (SD)
- State and Territory (S/T)
- Statistical District (S Dist.)
- Local Government Area (LGA)
- Statistical Region Sector (SRS)
- Statistical Region (SR)
- Major Statistical Region (MSR)

These spatial units are individually explained in this publication.

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Summary Tables

SUMMARY TABLES

The various ASGC structures and their component spatial units are shown in the following table:

TABLE 1, SUMMARY OF ASGC STRUCTURES

ASGC Structure	Hierarchical Levels	Component Spatial Units	Covers whole of Australia?
Local Government Area	3	SLA,LGA,S/T(a)	No
Statistical District	3	SLA,SSD,S Dist(b)	No
Main	4	SLA,SSD,SD,S/T	Yes
Statistical Region	5	SLA,SRS,SR,MSR,S/T	Yes

(a) Only that part of the S/T which comes under the responsibility of an incorporated Local Government Council. (See Chapter 3).
(b) Areas covered by S Dist only.

The number of spatial units in the various ASGC structures current at 1 July 2011 are shown in the table below:

TABLE 2, SUMMARY OF ASGC SPATIAL UNITS AS AT 1 JULY 2011(a)

Spatial Unit	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	OT	Aust.
S/T	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
SD	12	11	13	7	9	4	2	2	1	61
SSD	50	45	36	20	28	8	10	8	1	206
SLA	199	209	475	127	154	43	66	114	3	1 390
LGA(b)	152	79	74	70	139	29	16	_	_	559
S Dist.(c)	12	7	10	_	4	2	_	1	_	36
MSR	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	14
SR	22	14	13	6	7	1	1	1	1	66
SRS	25	14	27	6	7	3	2	1	1	86

(a) Does not include Migratory - Offshore - Shipping.
(b) Unincorporated Areas are not included.
(c) Counted in predominant state or territory.
Note: _ nil or rounded to zero (including null cells).

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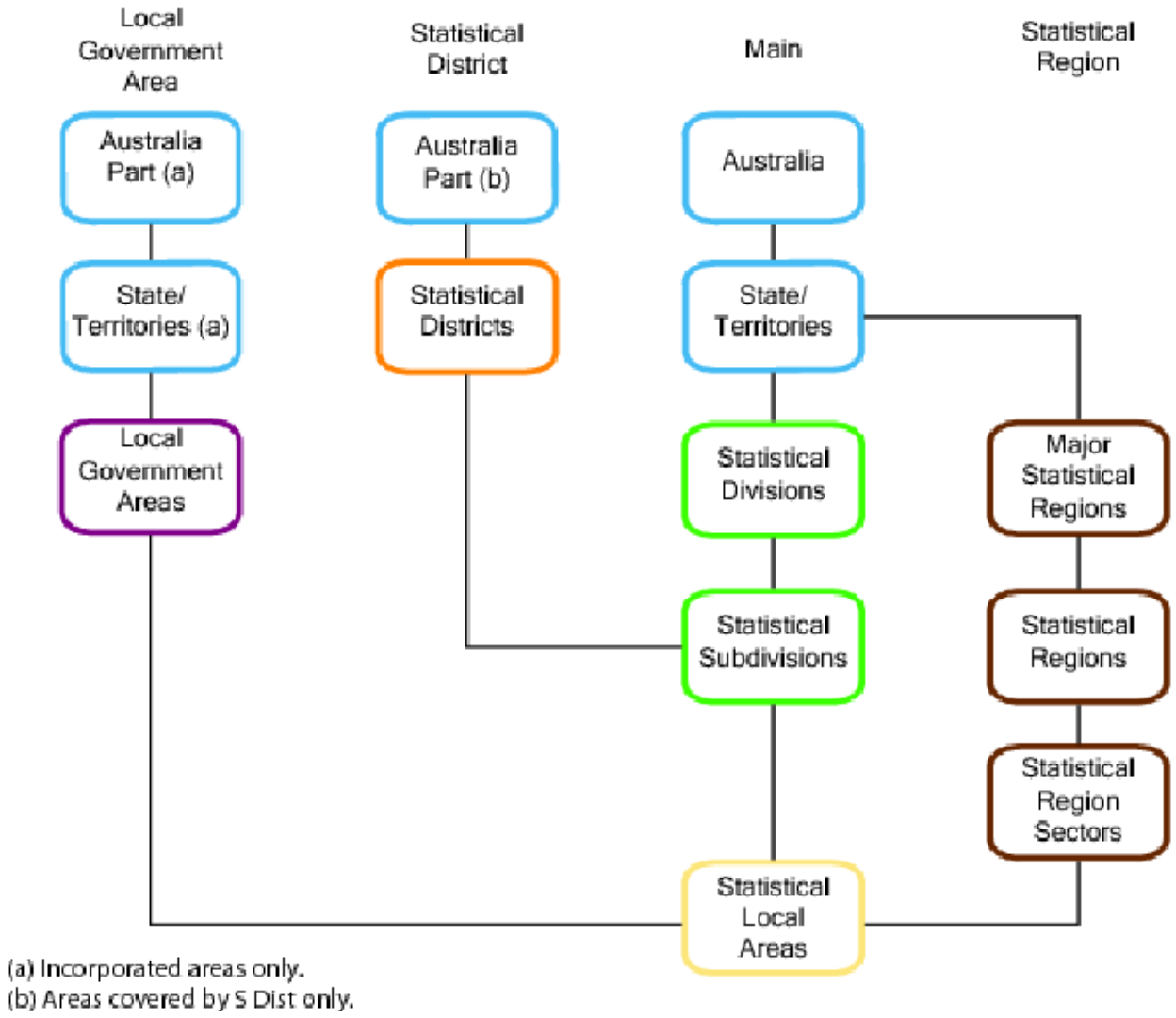
ASGC Structural Chart

ASGC STRUCTURAL CHART

The diagram below depicts the various ASGC structures and shows how they interrelate.

ASGC Structural Chart 2011



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Principles of the ASGC

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PRINCIPLES OF THE ASGC

The ASGC is constructed on the principle that it must fulfil user needs for spatial statistics while also conforming to general classification principles.

Classification principles

The ASGC is constructed on the basic classification principles that members within one class are of the same type, classes are uniquely defined so as to be mutually exclusive and, in total, the members in each class cover the entire class.

As a result, the geographical units of each hierarchical level in each classification structure of the ASGC are:

- of the same type, delimited by well-defined criteria
- clearly demarcated by precise boundaries
- uniquely identified by codes and names
- mutually exclusive
- in aggregate cover the whole area to which that hierarchy applies.

User needs

The ASGC is designed to meet user needs for social, demographic and economic statistics. The smallest unit of the ASGC is the SLA which are designed such that they are:

- useful and relevant for data dissemination
- flexible for aggregation to larger units
- useful building blocks for user-defined regions.

SLAs aggregate to other larger areas of the ASGC. Each geographical area serves a specific purpose and meets user needs.

DEFINITION OF AUSTRALIA

For ASGC purposes, the ABS uses the definition of Australia as set out in section 17(a) of the **Acts Interpretation Act 1901** which currently defines Australia or the Commonwealth as meaning:

'…the Commonwealth of Australia and, when used in a geographical sense, includes the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, but does not include any other external Territory.'

Following the incorporation of the Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands into geographic Australia (by the **Territories Law Reform Act, No. 104, 1992**, which amended the **Acts Interpretation Act 1901**), these two territories were included in the ASGC from 1 July 1993. Other external territories (such as Norfolk Island) remain excluded. In addition, the treatment of Jervis Bay Territory in the ASGC changed from 1 July 1993.

Jervis Bay Territory was previously included with the Australian Capital Territory for statistical purposes because of its administrative association with the Australian Capital Territory and because its relatively small size prevented it from meeting confidentiality requirements for statistical output. Following the granting of self-government to the Australian Capital Territory in May 1989, the situation was reviewed and from the 1 July 1993 Edition of the ASGC, Jervis Bay Territory, along with the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, formed part of a new category, Other Territories, at the state/territory level. Although included as part of the ASGC, all three of these territories are currently regarded as out-of-scope for ABS censuses and surveys except for the Census of Population and Housing, population estimates, and Cause of Death.

There are a number of other definitions of Australia used for specific purposes by the ABS. For example the definition of Economic Australia, for international reporting purposes, is defined in the Standard Economic Sector Classification of Australia (cat. no. 1218.0) as the area under the effective control of the Australian government and includes Norfolk Island.

Main Structure

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Purpose and Structure

PURPOSE

The Main Structure of the ASGC is used to collect and disseminate a broad range of ABS social, demographic and economic statistics. Maps depicting the Main Structure boundaries are provided in this publication.

THE STRUCTURE

The Main Structure has four hierarchical levels, comprising in ascending order: SLAs-SSDs-SDs-S/Ts. In this structure, SLAs aggregate to form SSDs, and this aggregation principle continues up the remaining hierarchical levels. At each hierarchical level, the component spatial units (e.g. SLAs) collectively cover all of Australia (as defined in this publication) without gaps or overlaps.

Tables

Detailed tables of the Main Structure are available in both the publication pdf and .csv file.

For example:

- Main Structure - Broad

(showing three hierarchical levels: S/T-SD-SSD)

S/T	SD	SSD	Name
4			SOUTH AUSTRALIA
	05		**Adelaide**

05	Northern Adelaide
10	Western Adelaide

- Main Structure - Detailed

(showing four hierarchical levels: S/T-SD-SSD-SLA)

S/T	SD	SSD	SLA	Name
4				SOUTH AUSTRALIA
	05			**Adelaide**
		05		Northern Adelaide
			2030	Gawler (T)
			5681	Playford (C) - East Central
		10		Western Adelaide
			1061	Charles Sturt (C) - Coastal
			1064	Charles Sturt (C) - Inner East

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The Spatial Units

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THE SPATIAL UNITS

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

The SLA is a general purpose spatial unit. It is the base spatial unit used to collect and disseminate statistics other than those collected from the Population Censuses. The SLA is the smallest unit defined in the 2011 edition of the ASGC. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of Australia (as defined in this publication) without gaps or overlaps.

SLAs aggregate directly to form the larger spatial units of SSDs in the Main Structure, SRSs in the SR Structure and LGAs in the LGA Structure (see ASGC Structural Chart). SSDs in turn aggregate to form the larger spatial units of S Dists in the S Dist. Structure. Therefore, the SLA is the common denominator which integrates the four classification structures in both census and non-census years.

In this edition of the ASGC, there are 1,390 SLAs in Australia including one SLA for each of the three Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

SLAs are listed in the table - Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas - Alphabetic. This table is available both within the publication pdf and the .csv file.

Delimitation of SLAs

SLAs are based on the boundaries of incorporated bodies of local government where these exist.

These bodies are the Local Government Councils and the geographical areas which they administer are known as Local Government Areas (LGAs).

An SLA will correspond to an LGA if the LGA fits entirely inside an SSD. For example, the SLA of Albury (C) corresponds to the whole LGA of the City of Albury in New South Wales.

There are cases where multiple SLAs correspond to one LGA. This can occur if an LGA is divided by the boundary of one or more SSDs or where the LGA is substantially different in size, economic significance and user needs for statistics to other LGAs. The LGA is then split into two or more SLAs which generally correspond to one or more suburbs (as occurs in the predominantly urban LGA of the City of Brisbane) or other areas of interest.

For example, the LGA of the Shire of Indigo in Victoria is split into two SLAs Indigo (S) - Pt A and Indigo (S) - Pt B because it is split by an SSD boundary, and, the LGA of the City of Brisbane is split into 158 SLAs generally based on suburbs.

There are large parts of Australia which are not administered by incorporated local government bodies. For those areas an SLA is an unincorporated area. Unincorporated SLAs are defined for unincorporated on-shore area(s) and/or off-shore island(s) in an SSD or are defined for that part of an unincorporated area which is considered of sufficient economic significance as to warrant the formation of a separate SLA.

For example, Unincorp. Pirie is an unincorporated SLA in the Pirie SSD in South Australia and Unincorp. Far West is an unincorporated SLA in Far West SSD in New South Wales. Similarly the SLAs of Alyangula and Nhulunbuy in East Arnhem SSD in the Northern Territory are unincorporated areas.

Other large parts of Australia which are unincorporated include the unincorporated part of South Australia. The Australian Capital Territory is entirely an unincorporated area where each SLA is either a suburb, a locality or the non-urban area of an SSD.

Migratory - Offshore - Shipping SLAs are not spatial units, and are formed for Census of Population and Housing purposes for each S/T.

SLA name

The naming conventions for SLAs are as follows:

- An SLA which corresponds to a whole LGA adopts the name of the LGA including its LGA status as a suffix. Thus, Narrogin (S) and Narrogin (T) in Western Australia are separate SLAs. The various LGA types currently in use by states and the Northern Territory are specified in this publication.
- An SLA which is part of an LGA may adopt a hyphenated name the first part of which is the name of the LGA.

For example, the LGA of Stirling (C) in Western Australia is split into three SLAs:

Stirling (C) - Central
Stirling (C) - Coastal
Stirling (C) - South-Eastern

- If the name includes - Pt A, - Pt B, or - Pt C, this indicates the SLAs were formed by splitting an LGA between two or more SSDs and - Pt A usually denotes the more urban part of the split LGA.

For example, the LGA of the Municipality of Latrobe in Tasmania is split into two SLAs:

Latrobe (M) - Pt A
Latrobe (M) - Pt B

- An SLA which is part of an LGA may adopt a locality or suburb name.

For example, the LGA of the City of Brisbane in Queensland is split into 158 SLAs, including:

Acacia Ridge
Albion
Yeronga
Zillmere

- The name of an SLA which covers an unincorporated area does not contain LGA type. In New South Wales and South Australia the SLA name may include Unincorp.

For example, the SLAs Yulara (in Northern Territory), Bruce (in Australian Capital Territory) and Unincorp. Far West (in New South Wales).

- A small number of SLA names are duplicated across S/Ts and one SLA name is duplicated within an S/T. These names become unique when used in conjunction with SLA codes.

Example:

City (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
City - Inner (Queensland and Northern Territory)
City - Remainder (Queensland and Northern Territory)
Durack (Queensland and Northern Territory)
Kingston (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
Oxley (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
Red Hill (Queensland and Australian Capital Territory)
West End (Townsville (C) and Brisbane (C))

SLA code

The coding conventions for SLAs are as follows:

- SLAs are identified by four-digit codes. These codes are unique only within an S/T. For unique Australia-wide identification the four-digit SLA code must be preceded by the unique one-digit S/T code.

Example:

Burwood (A) 1300 (in New South Wales) (S/T code 1)
East Arnhem (S) 1300 (in Northern Territory) (S/T code 7)

- The fourth (last) digit of the SLA code indicates the following:
    - 0 means the SLA is a whole LGA.

Example:

Ashburton (S) 0250 (in Western Australia)

    - 1-8 means the SLA is part of an LGA.

Example:

Sorell (M) - Pt A 4811 (in Tasmania)

Sorell (M) - Pt B 4812 (in Tasmania)

Code 9779 is used for Migratory - Offshore - Shipping SLAs which are not spatial units, and are formed for Census of Population and Housing purposes for each S/T. Code 9779 is used to code persons who on Census night are:

- in transit on long distance trains, buses, aircraft and long haul transport vehicles
- on oil rigs and drilling platforms etc.
- on expeditions in the Australian Antarctic Territory
- on board vessels in Australian waters, in or between Australian ports.

Example:

S/T SD SSD SLA

1 85 01 9779 Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (NSW)

3 85 01 9779 Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Qld)

In the Main Structure, SLA codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within an SSD.

Alignment of the ASGC and the ASGS

For 2011 there is a spatial alignment between SLAs and Mesh Blocks, i.e. Mesh Blocks fit exactly within SLAs for 2011. This alignment will make it easier to relate the ASGC to the ASGS and facilitates transition and conversion of data from the ASGC to the ASGS.

Statistical Subdivision (SSD)

The SSD is a general purpose spatial unit of intermediate size between the SLA (smaller) and the SD (larger) in the Main Structure.

- SSDs consist of one or more SLAs. In aggregate, they cover Australia (as defined in this publication) without gaps or overlaps. The larger spatial units of SDs and S Dists can be formed by aggregation of SSDs (see ASGC Structural Chart). SSDs do not cross S/T boundaries except in the case of the Other Territories SSD, which comprises the three Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

In this edition of the ASGC, there are 206 SSDs in Australia.

Delimitation of SSDs

The delimitation criteria for SSDs are as follows:

- SSDs are defined as socially and economically homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants. Moreover, in the non-urban areas (i.e. outside the capital cities or areas with population clusters of 25,000 or more people), an SSD is characterised by identifiable links between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.
- Where possible, SSD boundaries embrace contiguous whole LGAs. However, in some cases e.g. where S Dists or capital city SDs have been defined, an SSD boundary may split the LGA into parts with each part of the LGA forming part of the relevant SSD.

For example, the SSDs of Richmond-Tweed SD Bal and Tweed Heads & Tweed Coast dissect the LGA of the Area of Tweed in New South Wales.

- One or more SSDs must be defined for an S Dist. that falls within an S/T.

For example, the Ballarat City SSD in Victoria covers the same area as the Ballarat S Dist.

- One or more SSDs must be defined for each part of an S Dist. which straddles an S/T boundary.

For example, the Albury SSD in New South Wales plus the Wodonga SSD in Victoria together cover the same area as the Albury-Wodonga S Dist. which lies partly in New South Wales and partly in Victoria.

- Where an SD contains an S Dist. (or part of an S Dist.), one or more SSDs must be defined for the S Dist. and at least one SSD for the remainder of the SD which falls outside the S Dist. even though, the SSD(s) defined may not have a predominant town or cluster of towns with a unifying socioeconomic influence over the region.

For example, in New South Wales, the SSD of Hunter SD Bal is defined as the part of the Hunter SD which is outside the Newcastle (NSW) S Dist. (and Newcastle SSD).

- Migratory - Offshore - Shipping SSDs are not spatial units, and are formed for Census of Population and Housing purposes for each S/T.

SSD code

The coding conventions for SSDs are as follows:

- SSDs are identified by unique two-digit codes within SDs. Unique Australia-wide identification of SSDs is obtained by use of a five-digit code comprising S/T code (digit 1), SD code (digits 2-3) and SSD code (digits 4-5).

For example, Albury 15505 (in New South Wales) and Wodonga 24505 (in Victoria).

- In the Main Structure, SSD codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within an SD. Gaps have been provided between the codes for future expansion or change.

Statistical Division (SD)

The SD is a general purpose spatial unit and is the largest and most stable spatial unit within each S/T in the Main Structure.

SDs consist of one or more SSDs. In aggregate, they cover Australia (as defined in this publication) without gaps or overlaps. SDs aggregate to form S/Ts (see ASGC Structural Chart).

In this edition of the ASGC, there are 61 SDs in Australia including one SD for the three Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Delimitation of SDs

The current basis for delimiting SDs was determined by the 31st and 33rd Conferences of Statisticians of Australia in 1969 and 1973. The delimitation criteria are as follows:

- SDs should ideally be delimited on the basis of socioeconomic criteria and should, where possible, embrace contiguous whole local government areas.
- SD boundaries so delimited should be changed only at infrequent intervals, for example, at periods of 15-20 years.
- SD boundaries should be determined in time for use in the next Population Census if practicable.
- A Capital City SD (currently one in each capital city) should be defined, after consultation with planners, to contain the anticipated development of the city for a period of at least 20 years. This fixed SD boundary - as distinct from the moving urban centre boundary - delimits an area which is stable for general statistical purposes. It represents the city in a wider sense. This delimitation procedure cannot be applied to the separate urban centres within a Capital City SD.
- SDs outside a capital city should be defined as a relatively homogeneous region characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.

More specifically, the SDs within the individual S/T have been delimited as follows:

- In New South Wales, SDs correspond to proclaimed Government Regions with the exception that North Coast Region consists of the SDs of Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast. These Regions were delimited to maximize the degree of socioeconomic interactions within each Region. Information on transport patterns, telephone traffic between major cities and towns, retail shopping, fresh goods marketing, provincial newspaper circulation areas and coverage of principal radio stations were all used in delimiting these boundaries.
- In Victoria, the SDs prior to 1995 generally corresponded to State Planning Regions adopted by the Victorian Government in October 1981. However, following the restructuring of local government in that State during 1994 and 1995, the SDs were redefined to accord with the general considerations and criteria outlined above.
- In Queensland, formal State Planning Regions have been abolished. SDs are used on an informal basis for State Government planning purposes where relevant. SD delimitation follows the general criteria outlined above.
- In South Australia, State Planning Regions, as proposed by the Committee on Uniform Regional Boundaries for Government Departments (CURB), were adopted by the South Australia Government in 1976. CURB Regions were based on such factors as: population density and distribution, socioeconomic characteristics, political boundaries, government service areas, newspaper circulation, retail trading patterns, etc. Prior to 1998, South Australian SDs did not always correspond to CURB Regions but they always aggregated to these Regions. However, following the restructuring of local government in South Australia in 1996 and 1997, the SDs were redefined to accord with the general considerations and criteria outlined above.
- In Western Australia, State Planning Regions, as proposed by the State Statistical Coordination Committee, were adopted by the Western Australia Government in January 1976. SDs in Western Australia correspond to these Regions. The Perth Metropolitan Region is delimited to be consistent with the overall concepts and planning of Perth and to take into account LGA and CD boundaries. Rural Regions on the other hand are delimited based on the socioeconomic interest of the community; the character of natural resource; the distribution of population and industries; town size; road and railway systems; and production and marketing practices.
- In Tasmania, SD delimitation follows the general considerations and criteria outlined above. They are considered satisfactory for the purpose of State Government planning.
- In the Northern Territory, SDs are based on Territory Government Administrative Regions, and are consistent with the general considerations and criteria for their delimitation described above.
- In the Australian Capital Territory, SD delimitation follows the general considerations and

criteria outlined above.
- In the Other Territories, the SD has been delimited to represent the aggregated area of the Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
- Migratory - Offshore - Shipping SDs are not spatial units, and are formed for Census of Population and Housing purposes for each S/T.

SD name

SD names tend to indicate their generalised region (e.g. Far North in Queensland). SD names are unique only within an S/T as a small number of SD names are replicated between the states (see example below). SD names become unique when used in conjunction with their SD codes or referenced to their respective state code. One Migratory - Offshore - Shipping SD is defined for each S/T.

Example:

Central West (in New South Wales and Queensland)
Northern (in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania)
South West (in Queensland and Western Australia)
South Eastern (in New South Wales and Western Australia)

SD code

The coding conventions for SDs are as follows:

- SDs are identified by unique two-digit codes within an S/T. Unique Australia-wide identification of SDs requires a three-digit code comprising S/T code (digit 1) and SD code (digits 2-3).

Example:

Adelaide 405
Kimberley 545

- The SD code 85 is reserved for Migratory - Offshore - Shipping SDs.
- In the Main Structure, SD codes are arranged in ascending numerical order within an S/T.

State and Territory (S/T)

The S/T is the largest spatial unit in the Main Structure and in the ASGC.

Six states and five territories are recognised in the ASGC: New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay Territory and the external Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

These spatial units are political entities with fixed boundaries. Except for the last three mentioned territories, the total area of each S/T, including their off-shore islands, is used for statistical purposes as a separate spatial unit in the ASGC. Jervis Bay Territory, and the Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands are included as one spatial unit at the S/T level under the category of Other Territories.

S/Ts consist of one or more SDs. In aggregate, they cover Australia (as defined in this publication) without gaps or overlaps.

S/Ts are identified by unique one-digit codes within Australia as follows:

Code	S/T
1	New South Wales
2	Victoria
3	Queensland
4	South Australia
5	Western Australia
6	Tasmania
7	Northern Territory
8	Australian Capital Territory
9	Other Territories

This coding order has been widely used in the ABS and other organizations as a standard for many years. The order was reviewed when Western Australia displaced South Australia as the fourth most populous state. Citing the Commonwealth Table of Precedence, which adopted a revised listing such that any textual material having protocol significance should list Western Australia before South Australia, some users requested the code for Western Australia be changed to four and South Australia to five. For the ASGC however, the above order was maintained to ensure historical continuity, to reduce potential errors in data handling and interpreting, and to avoid costs associated with changing existing systems.

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Local Government Area Structure

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA STRUCTURE

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Purpose and Structure

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PURPOSE

LGAs are defined within the ASGC to enable the ABS to disseminate social, demographic and economic statistics on this widely used administrative region.

The LGA Structure is separate from the Main Structure because:

- Unlike spatial units in the Main Structure, LGAs do not cover the whole of Australia
- Unlike SLAs which aggregate to form SSDs and SDs, some LGAs do not wholly fit within an SSD and an SD (e.g. Mid-Western Regional Area in New South Wales).

THE STRUCTURE

Incorporated areas only

The LGA Structure covers only incorporated areas of Australia. Incorporated areas are legally designated parts of States and Territories over which incorporated local governing bodies have responsibility. The major areas of Australia not administered by incorporated bodies are the northern parts of South Australia and all of the Australian Capital Territory and the Other Territories.

The LGA Structure has three levels: SLAs-LGAs-S/Ts (Incorporated Areas). The spatial units in each level relate to each other in a straightforward manner: LGAs comprise one or more whole SLAs.

Processing LGAs for the ASGC

LGAs are proclaimed by State and Territory government authorities and changes are gazetted throughout the year. The ABS has broadened the categories of legislation used to define local government areas for statistical purposes to include the Indigenous Council areas in the States.

LGAs are used as the base on which SLAs are defined. Because this definition process takes time, LGAs gazetted during the year leading up to an ASGC edition cannot always be included in that edition. For instance, complex LGA changes which result in complicated redesign of SLAs, or changes gazetted too close to the effective date of 1 July of an ASGC edition, may have to be included in a later edition.

Table

The current LGA Structure, down to SLA level, is shown in The Classification Structures. This table is available in both the publication pdf and as a .csv file.

For example:

- Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas - Alphabetic

S/T	LGA Name	LGA	SLA Name	SLA
1	Albury (C)	10050	Albury (C)	155050050
1	Armidale Dumaresq (A)	10110		
1			Armidale Dumaresq (A) - City	130150111
1			Armidale Dumaresq (A) Bal	130150112

Note that there is no SD or SSD code for the LGA because LGAs are not part of the Main

Structure. This table also shows SLAs which cover unincorporated areas and are therefore not part of the LGA Structure.

For example:

S/T	LGA Name	LGA	SLA Name	SLA
1	Unincorporated NSW	19399		
1			Unincorp. Far West	160108809
1			Lord Howe Island	125108859

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The Spatial Units

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

See Main Structure section within this publication.

Local Government Area (LGA)

An LGA included in the ASGC LGA Structure is a spatial unit which represents the whole geographical area of responsibility of an incorporated Local Government Council or an Aboriginal Council in Queensland.

An LGA consists of one or more SLAs. LGAs aggregate directly to form the incorporated areas of S/Ts (see ASGC Structural Chart). In this edition of the ASGC, there are 559 LGAs defined.

Delimitation of LGAs

The creation and delimitation of LGAs is the responsibility of the State and Territory Governments. The number of LGAs, their names and their boundaries vary over time.

Local government bodies perform a wide range of functions in the areas they administer. These functions are defined in legislation such as:

- The Local Government Acts in each State and the Northern Territory
- Specific Acts and regulations establishing Local Government Areas in Queensland, **City of Brisbane Act 1924**, and the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty Limited Agreement (Weipa Town Area) Regulation 1994.

LGA status

In all States and the Northern Territory each incorporated area has an official status. In this ASGC

edition, the various LGA status types currently in use are:

- New South Wales: Cities (C) and Areas (A)
- Victoria: Cities (C), Rural Cities (RC), Boroughs (B) and Shires (S)
- Queensland: Cities (C), Shires (S), Towns (T) and Regional Councils (R)
- South Australia: Cities (C), Rural Cities (RC), Towns (T), Municipalities/Municipal Councils (M), District Councils (DC), Regional Councils (RegC) and Aboriginal Councils (AC)
- Western Australia: Cities (C), Towns (T) and Shires (S)
- Tasmania: Cities (C) and Municipalities (M)
- Northern Territory: Cities (C), Towns (T), Municipalities (M) and Shires (S).

LGA name

In the LGA Structure LGA names are contracted. A suffix also indicates the LGA status.

Example:

City of Albury Albury (C)
District Council of Copper Coast Copper Coast (DC)

LGA names are not unique across states and territories (e.g. Campbelltown (C) is duplicated between New South Wales and South Australia). An LGA name will become unique when used in conjunction with a state code, or its LGA code.

LGA code

LGAs are identified by four-digit codes as follows:

- Codes are unique only within an S/T. For unique Australia-wide LGA code identification, the four-digit code must be preceded by the S/T code. All LGA codes end with the digit 0.
- Where an LGA corresponds to an SLA, the LGA code and the SLA code are identical.
- Where an LGA consists of more than one SLA, generally the first three digits of the LGA code and the SLA code are identical.

Code 9399 is used to represent unincorporated areas that are not covered by LGAs. This includes the Migratory - Offshore - Shipping SLA. The code enables S/T totals to be produced for some LGA output from the Census of Population and Housing. In such circumstances, code 9399 equates to the aggregated unincorporated SLAs in each S/T.

Example:

S/T LGA

7 9399 Northern Territory, Aggregation of unincorporated SLAs

Special case LGA codes

When an LGA consists of many component SLAs, it becomes impossible to maintain a three-digit link between the LGA code and the SLA codes. This occurs for the LGAs of: Queensland - Brisbane (C), Gold Coast (C), Logan (C), Moreton Bay (R), Redland (C), Sunshine Coast (R), Toowoomba (R), Ipswich (C), Cairns (R), Torres Strait Island (R) and Townsville (C); and for the Northern Territory - Darwin (C) and Palmerston (C).

For example, the LGA of Brisbane (C) in Queensland is split into 158 SLAs, including:

Acacia Ridge 1001
Yeronga 1648
Zillmere 1653

State/Territory (S/T)

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Statistical District Structure

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STATISTICAL DISTRICT STRUCTURE

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PURPOSE

The S Dist. Structure maintains a list of selected, significant, predominantly urban areas in Australia which are not located within a Capital City SD (see Main Structure section within this publication). S Dists enable comparable statistics to be produced about these selected urban areas. In the main, the structure is used to report intercensal population estimates.

S Dists are maintained as a separate structure from the Main Structure because:

- the total area of S Dists does not cover the whole of Australia
- some S Dists straddle S/T boundaries (e.g. the Gold Coast-Tweed S Dist. lies partly in Queensland and partly in New South Wales).

THE STRUCTURE

The S Dist. Structure has three levels of hierarchy SLAs-SSDs-S Dists (see ASGC Structural Chart).

In this structure, SLAs and SSDs are confined to those which fall within S Dists. The spatial units relate to each other through aggregation or disaggregation. For example, SLAs are disaggregates of SSDs. The spatial units within each level of the S Dist. Structure do not collectively cover the whole of Australia.

Table

The current S Dist. Structure, down to SLA level, is shown in The Classification Structures. This table is available in both the publication pdf and as a .csv file.

For example:

- Statistical District Structure

(showing three hierarchical levels: S Dist.-SSD-SLA)

SDIST	SSD	SLA	Name
1003			NEWCASTLE (NSW)
	11005		**Newcastle**
		1720	Cessnock (C)
		4651	Lake Macquarie (C) - East
		4653	Lake Macquarie (C) - North
		4655	Lake Macquarie (C) - West
		5050	Maitland (C)
		5903	Newcastle (C) - Inner City
		5904	Newcastle (C) - Outer West
		5905	Newcastle (C) - Throsby
		6400	Port Stephens (A)

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THE SPATIAL UNITS

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

See the Main Structure section within this publication.

Statistical Subdivision (SSD)

See the Main Structure section within this publication.

Statistical District (S Dist.)

S Dists are predominantly urban areas, the boundaries of which are designed to contain the anticipated urban spread of the area for at least 20 years. They are generally defined as containing an urban centre population of 25,000 or more.

S Dists consist of one or more SSDs. S Dists do not aggregate to any higher level spatial units (see ASGC Structural Chart).

There are 36 S Dists in this edition of the ASGC. Three of these straddle two states: Albury-Wodonga (New South Wales/Victoria), Gold Coast-Tweed (Queensland/New South Wales) and Canberra-Queanbeyan (Australian Capital Territory/New South Wales).

Delimitation of S Dists

The criteria for delimiting S Dists are as follows:

- S Dists consist of one or more urban centres (outside Capital City SDs) in close proximity with a population of 25,000 or more
- S Dist. boundaries are defined in anticipation of urban development of at least 20 years
- S Dists consist of one or more SSDs
- S Dists may cut across LGA boundaries
- S Dists may cut across S/T boundaries
- an S Dist. may be delimited for an urban centre with less than 25,000 population, where the ABS can determine a demand for intercensal population estimates for the area and the existing LGA/SLA boundaries are inadequate for this purpose.

S Dist. name

S Dist. names include a suffix which identifies the S/T in which the S Dist. is located.

Example:

Newcastle (NSW)
Albury-Wodonga (NSW/VIC)

S Dist. code

S Dists are identified by four-digit codes which are unique within Australia. The first two digits indicate the S/T(s) in which the S Dist. is located. For the three S Dists which cover two States, the first digit is the code of the predominant State and the second digit is the code of the other State. For the other S Dists which fall entirely within one S/T, the first digit is the S/T code and the second digit is 0. The last two digits are allocated in ascending numerical order. Gaps are left between codes for future expansion.

Example:

Newcastle (New South Wales) 1003

Albury-Wodonga (New South Wales/Victoria) 1218
Gold Coast-Tweed (Queensland/New South Wales) 3139
Canberra-Queanbeyan (Australian Capital Territory/New South Wales) 8196

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Statistical Region Structure

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STATISTICAL REGION STRUCTURE

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PURPOSE

The SR Structure has been in use since 1986 for the production of standard statistical outputs from Population Censuses and labour force surveys. Labour Force Surveys use dissemination regions for the publication of labour force data.

SRs are maintained as a separate structure from the Main Structure because of the complex manner in which they relate to SSDs and SDs. For example, SRs can be whole SSDs, aggregates of SSDs, or part of an SSD. Similarly they can be whole SDs, aggregates of SDs or part of an SD. SRs can also be as large as a state or territory. SRs are aggregates of SLAs.

THE STRUCTURE

The SR Structure has five levels of hierarchy SLAs-SRSs-SRs-MSRs-S/Ts (see ASGC Structural Chart).

The spatial units in adjoining levels relate to each other by aggregation and disaggregation. For example, SRSs aggregate to SRs while SRs are disaggregates of MSRs. The spatial units within each level of the SR Structure cover the whole of Australia (as defined in this publication) without

gaps or overlaps.

Table

Detailed tables of the SR Structure are shown in The Classification Structures. This table is available in both the publication pdf and as a .csv file.

For example:

- Statistical Region Structure - Broad

(showing three hierarchical levels: S/T-MSR-SR)

S/T	MSR	SR	Name
1			NEW SOUTH WALES
	1		**Sydney**
		04	Inner Sydney
		08	Eastern Suburbs
		12	St George-Sutherland
		16	Canterbury-Bankstown
		20	Fairfield-Liverpool
		24	Outer South Western Sydney
		28	Inner Western Sydney
		32	Central Western Sydney
		36	North Western Sydney
		44	Lower Northern Sydney
		48	Central Northern Sydney
		52	Northern Beaches
		56	Central Coast

For example:

- Statistical Region Structure - Detailed

(showing five hierarchical levels: S/T-MSR-SR-SRS-SLA)

S/T	MSR	SR	SRS	SLA	Name
1					NEW SOUTH WALES
	1				**Sydney**
		04			Inner Sydney
			1		Inner Sydney
				1100	Botany Bay (C)
				4800	Leichhardt (A)
				5200	Marrickville (A)
				7201	Sydney (C) - Inner
				7204	Sydney (C) - East
				7205	Sydney (C) - South
				7206	Sydney (C) - West

The Spatial Units

THE SPATIAL UNITS

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

See the Main Structure section within this publication.

Statistical Region Sector (SRS)

SRSs consist of one or more adjoining SLAs and in all but one case equate to one or more adjoining SSDs.

Example:

SRS Name	SRS Code	SSD Name	SSD Code	SLA Name	SLA Code
Mornington Peninsula	1281	Frankston City	20585	Frankston (C) - East	2171
Mornington Peninsula	1281	Frankston City	20585	Frankston (C) - West	2174
Mornington Peninsula	1281	Mornington Peninsula Shire	20590	Mornington P'sula (S) - East	5341
Mornington Peninsula	1281	Mornington Peninsula Shire	20590	Mornington P'sula (S) - South	5344
Mornington Peninsula	1281	Mornington Peninsula Shire	20590	Mornington P'sula (S) - West	5345

The exception is:

- eight of the 15 SRSs in the Brisbane MSR are smaller than an SSD

Although SRSs are subdivisions of SRs, most SRSs equate with SRs. Exceptions to this generalised rule include the SRSs in the Hunter, Illawarra, Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West, Northern-North West, Darling Downs-South West, Tasmania and Northern Territory SRs and the SRSs in the Brisbane MSR except for Ipswich City. SRSs are used primarily for disseminating selected labour force statistics.

There are 86 SRSs in this edition of the ASGC.

SRS code

SRSs are identified by five-digit codes. Each code consists of S/T code (digit 1), MSR code (digit 2), SR code (digits 3-4) and SRS code (digit 5).

Example:

Mornington Peninsula (21281)

Only digits 1, 3-4 and 5 are required for unique identification within Australia.

Statistical Region (SR)

SRs consist of one or more SSDs.

In the capital cities of the five larger states of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, SRs are smaller than SDs and aggregate to form the respective capital city SDs. Outside of the capital cities in these S/Ts, SRs consist of one or more adjoining SDs.

In Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories, SRs are the entire S/Ts.

There are 66 SRs in this edition of the ASGC.

SR code

SRs are identified by four-digit codes as follows:

- Each code consists of S/T code (digit 1), MSR code (digit 2) and SR code (digits 3-4).

Example:

West Moreton 3969
Central Coast 1156

Major Statistical Region (MSR)

Each of the five larger States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia consists of two MSRs. One MSR equates with the capital city SD and the other with the balance of the State. The other S/Ts have one MSR each with each MSR covering the entire area of the S/T.

There are 14 MSRs in this edition of the ASGC.

MSR code

MSRs are identified by two-digit codes for unique identification within Australia. Each code consists of an S/T code (digit 1) and an MSR code (digit 2). MSR code 1 represents the capital city MSR in the larger States while code 9 denotes the Balance of State MSR.

Example:

MSR
Sydney 11
Balance of New South Wales 19

Delimitation of MSR, SR, SRS

One of the main uses of these spatial units is to report statistics from the Labour Force Surveys. These units were established following analyses of data from Censuses of Population and Housing, consultation with users of labour force data, consideration of minimum regional population levels required to yield reliable estimates, and the need for consistency with other statistical collections.

Population considerations dictate that Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory and Other Territories cannot be dissected into two MSRs (as in the other states) as their populations are too small.

The minimum population size of a region for which labour force statistics are published depends on a number of factors. The prime determinant is the reliability of data based on the population size of the region and the sampling fraction of the S/T. Unlike State and MSR level data, estimates at lower geographic levels are not constrained to conform to independently estimated population totals. Estimates for regions are also based on considerably smaller samples. For these reasons, regional estimates may be subject to high relative standard errors. Other factors that may be considered are how well the region fits with the classification structure of the S/T, how homogenous the labour force is in the region, and the uses to which the data may be put.

State/Territory (S/T)

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USE OF THE ASGC IN PUBLICATION OF ABS STATISTICS
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GUIDELINES

The ASGC was created to allow spatially comparable statistics to be collected and published by the ABS. However, this objective can only be achieved if the ASGC is consistently applied across all

statistical work. The following publishing guidelines are therefore used in the ABS:

- Where possible, each table relates to one particular ASGC structure only. This structure is identified in the table heading or a table footnote.
- Where possible, the ASGC structure is represented in full. Omissions of one or more hierarchical levels in one structure are however, permissible. For example, the entire SSD level of the Main Structure may be omitted. All omissions are noted and explained in the publication.
- Partial omissions from an ASGC structure may also be necessary because of confidentiality considerations. When ASGC spatial units have to be combined, the combinations are confined to spatial units which are:
    - within one ASGC structure
    - at the same hierarchical level
    - within one spatial unit at the next hierarchical level.

For example, in the Main Structure, two or more SLAs are combined within an SSD or, two or more SSDs within an SD.

- In certain circumstances it is permissible in one table, to publish statistics which relate to more than one ASGC structure, for example, if statistics are required on LGAs and SDs. Extreme care is required, however, to ensure the statistics being cross-classified cover the same total area. For example, in some states and the Northern Territory, LGAs cover only part of the S/T, while SDs cover the entire S/T. A cross-classification of LGAs within SDs would therefore not be feasible if S/T totals were required. In this case, use of the Main Structure or the SR Structure would be more appropriate.
- ASGC spatial unit names are shown in table stubs or column headings. These should conform with those in the ASGC or authorised ASGC subsets.
- Each file, document or publication containing statistics classified according to the ASGC specifies the applicable ASGC edition. This is necessary to ensure users can compare like areas across different collections.
- Care should be taken in publishing ASGC spatial unit codes. In publications containing combined national, S/T data, ASGC spatial unit codes are quoted in conjunction with spatial unit names or prefixed by S/T codes to allow unique identification throughout Australia.

Users should note that this is the final edition of the ASGC and that the ASGS is the new statistical geography standard for ABS statistics.

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION

The first edition of the ASGC had an effective date of 5 July 1984 and adopted the geographical areas already in use in the ABS for some time prior to that date. In 1988, the ASGC underwent a review and most of the findings were incorporated into the 1991 edition of the ASGC. A further review of the ASGC commenced in early 1996 and was completed in 1997. This review did not result in any changes to the ASGC spatial units or their delimitation criteria. However a decision was made to review the existing capital city SDs, and S Dists, to ensure they will meet statistical requirements for at least the next twenty years. Sections of State were also reviewed to determine additional classes for the Urban Centres. The outcomes of these reviews were implemented in the ASGC 2001 Edition.

Prior to 1993, the ASGC was updated on an as-needed basis which generally resulted in updates occurring once or twice a year. Since 1994, the ASGC has been updated annually (with the exception of 1997, in which no update occurred) with an effective date of 1 July. The nine editions of the ASGC manual between 1984 and 1990 were known as Edition 1 to Edition 9. By contrast, the five editions between 1991 and 1995 were known as Edition 2.1 to Edition 2.5. From 1996, the ASGC edition is known by the year it becomes effective, e.g. the 2005 Edition.

Earlier editions of the ASGC manual were kept up-to-date by the issue of replacement pages. Editions 1 to 9 formed one series of editions. Similarly, Edition 2.1 was the base edition for the second series of ASGC manuals, which included Editions 2.1 to 2.5. The 1996, 2001 and 2006 Editions were published as part of three-volume sets of Statistical Geography publications relating to those census years. The 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007,2008, 2009, and 2010 Editions were each published as a single volume. The 2011 Edition is published as a single volume.

In late 2006, the ABS convened the ASGC Review Committee, a panel of internal and external experts to guide the review and to generate ideas that could be taken to consultation. This edition of the ASGC includes a chapter on the outcomes of the ASGC review. The aim of the review was to create a new Australian statistical geography that better meets the contemporary needs of users and addresses some of the shortcomings of the current ASGC. The new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) was released in December 2010 and is valid from July 2011. Consequently the 2011 Census edition of the ASGC will be the final publication of that standard.

SPATIAL UNIT AND CODE CHANGES

Essentially, the ASGC has been updated in response to two types of changes:

- Externally controlled spatial unit changes. These changes relate to administrative or political areas which have been adopted as spatial units in the ASGC. The ABS has no control over changes to these types of spatial units. The most usual changes of this type are changes to LGAs made by state and territory governments. These changes can range from LGA boundary variations to the creation or amalgamation of whole LGAs and usually require consequential changes to related ASGC spatial units such as SLAs.
- All other changes. These cover changes to ABS-defined spatial units, such as SLAs created

within LGAs or changes to SSD boundaries, or changes to the principles and criteria which govern the delimitation of these spatial units. On occasion, changes of this type are triggered by changes to administrative or political areas described above. More usually, changes of this type result from ad hoc or systematic reviews.

Changes in spatial units are often, though not always, accompanied by changes to the spatial unit codes. Therefore it is important when referencing spatial units in publications or tabulations, to quote the ASGC edition as well as the names and codes of these units. The main causes of spatial unit code changes between ASGC editions are:

- changes to spatial unit areas, especially where changes are significant
- spatial unit name changes, especially in the case of LGAs and SLAs
- consequential changes i.e. where one change forces another
- general code structure revisions.

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ASGC-RELATED MATERIAL AND PRODUCTS

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The ASGC manual is essentially a reference document. Consequently, additional and more specialised ASGC-related material and products are needed to assist application of the ASGC to statistical work. Many of these materials and products are available for sale to ABS clients, as well as for use by ABS personnel. The following is a listing of some of the more important types of related material and products.

ASGC-Related Products and Services

ASGC-RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

National Localities Index (NLI) and AddressCoder@ABS

The **National Localities Index Australia** (cat. no. 1252.0.55.001) was a coding tool designed to assist users assign the ASGC Main Structure codes to street address information. The last release of the NLI was in 2007 and the NLI is no longer produced.

The AddressCoder@ABS was a web service that assigned a SLA or CD code to an address or a list of addresses. It was available to external users who registered with the National Data Network (NDN). This service is no longer available.

To replace the localities file of the NLI, a Locality to SLA Index file was created for 2011. It is available on request by contacting ABS Geography at <geography@abs.gov.au> (see paragraph on Locality to SLA Index).

Maps and digital boundaries

Maps depicting past years ASGC boundaries are included in the various editions of this publication from 1996 onwards. Maps depicting the 1981 and 1986 Census Editions were included in the respective Census Publications. Maps of the ASGC Edition 2011 Main Structure are included in this publication.

Maps of CDs for the 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing are available in PDF format on request for a fee. To obtain these maps please contact the ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) on telephone number 1300 135 070 or alternatively you can contact them by emailing <client.services@abs.gov.au>.

Digital boundaries for 1981 (pre ASGC), 1986 and from 1991 onwards are available in MapInfo interchange format (.MID .MIF) on several CDROM products. The 2011 ASGC digital boundaries are also available in MapInfo interchange format and ESRI Shapefile format, these boundaries can be downloaded from the ABS web site free of charge from **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries (Intercensal) Australia 2011** (cat. no. 1259.0.30.001).

Labels and Codes

Listings of ASGC labels and codes are available for all structures and all editions of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification. The latest listings are available electronically as ASCII comma delimited text files and can be downloaded from the ABS web site free of charge from **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) - Electronic Structures 01 Jul 2011** (cat. no. 1216.0.15.001).

ASGC correspondences

The ABS has developed a large number of correspondences between editions of the ASGC and between the various structures. These are available electronically as ASCII comma delimited text files and some can be downloaded from the ABS web site free of charge. Correspondences available on the web site can be accessed from **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Correspondences, 01 Jul 2011** (cat. no. 1216.0.15.002) and **ABS Postal Area Concordances, Aug 2006** (cat. no. 2905.0.55.001). We also have a large number of other correspondence products available by request. To obtain these correspondence products please contact ABS Geography at <geography@abs.gov.au>.

Locality to Statistical Local Area (SLA) Index

The Locality to SLA Index is a file to assist coding to the ASGC.

The Locality to SLA Index will facilitate the coding of addresses to Statistical Local Area (SLA) or Local Government Area (LGA) on the basis of State, Locality and Postcode. It effectively replaces the localities file of the National Localities Index (NLI) which was discontinued after the ASGC 2007. It does not replace the NLI streets file. Where a locality is split between two or more SLAs, it is allocated to the SLA which contains the most Geocoded National Address File (GNAF) Address points.

Alias and alternative names for localities are treated as if they were legitimate localities in their own right. No indication is given whether the locality is a gazetted locality or an alias/alternative. Similarly, alternative locality postcode combinations are treated as a legitimate combination in their own right. No indication is given as to which of the postcodes are officially assigned by Australia Post. The file therefore cannot be used to validate postcodes or localities.

The Locality to SLA correspondence file is available on request from the ABS by emailing <geography@abs.gov.au>.

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THE OUTCOME FROM THE ASGC REVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

The ABS finalised the ASGC review with the release of the Information Paper: Outcome from the Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2008 (cat. no. 1216.0.55.002) in July 2008. This paper explains that the current ASGC will be replaced in July 2012 with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). For one year from July 2011, the ASGS will operate in parallel with this final edition of the ASGC. The ASGS is broadly similar to the proposal in the earlier Information Paper: Review of the Australian Standard Statistical Classification 2007 (cat. no. 1216.0.55.001) with a number of important changes, which are a result of stakeholder consultation.

A further paper calling for submissions on the design of the Statistical Areas 3 and 4 and the capital cities: Information Paper: Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Design of the Statistical Areas Level 4, Capital Cities and Statistical Areas Level 3 (cat. no. 1216.0.55.003) was released in May 2010.

For more detail about the review please refer to these three papers.

The ASGS

The first ASGS publication with digital Mesh Blocks, Statistical Areas 1 to 4 and Greater Capital City Statistical Area boundaries was published in December 2010: Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

The ASGS will become the new basis for the publication of the complete range of ABS statistics. The ABS encourages its adoption outside the ABS to facilitate the comparison of spatial statistics. This 2011 ASGC edition is the final ASGC version. The 2011 Census of Population and Housing will be released on the 2011 ASGS and the abbreviated ASGC with SLAs as the smallest unit.

Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1) are the smallest area for which a wide range of Population Census data will be released. They will be comparable in size to the 2006 Census Collection District (CD), with a minimum population of 200, a maximum population of 800 and, an average of approximately 400 people.

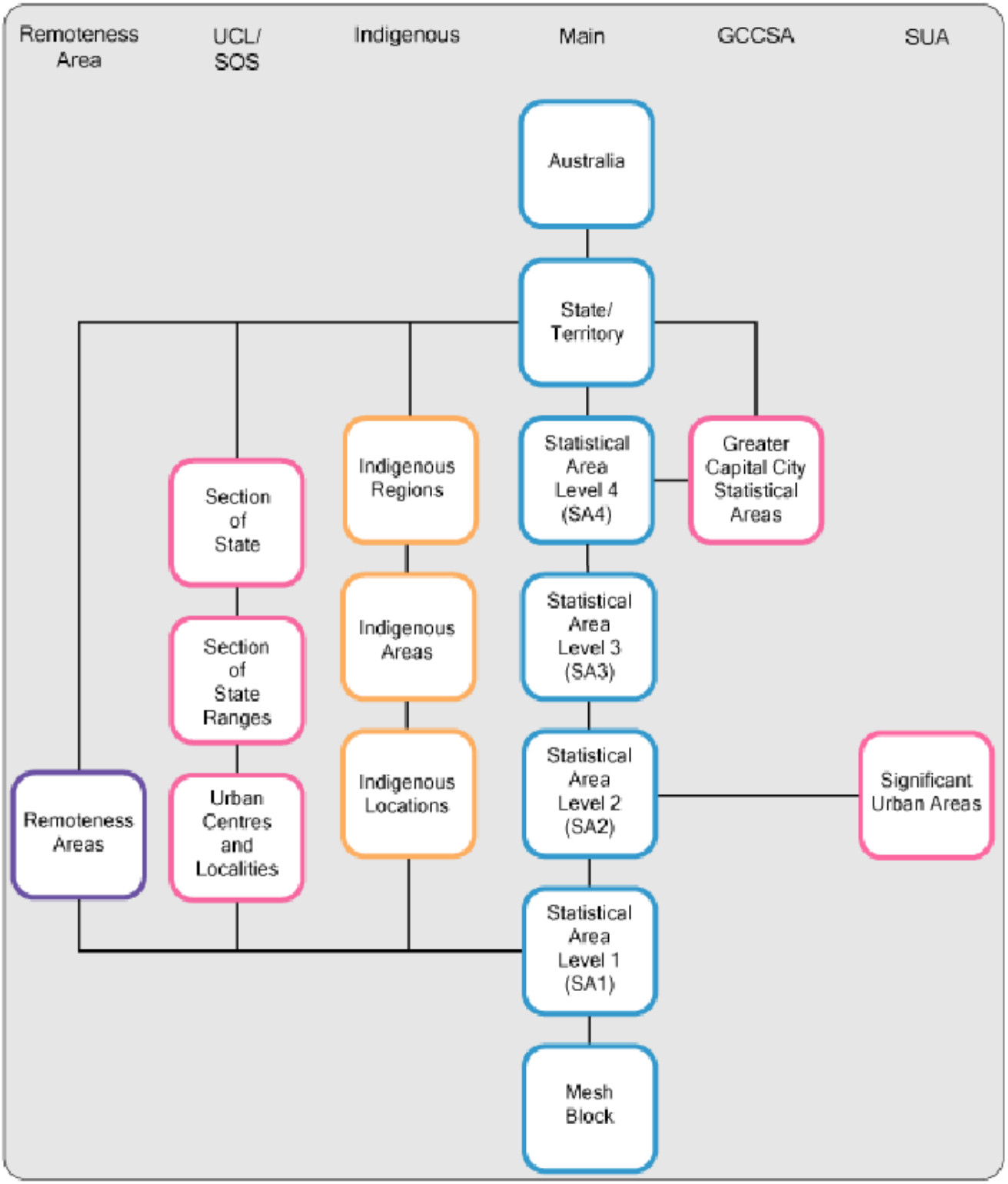
Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2) are designed to reflect functional areas. They are the level for which the majority of the ABS sub-state intercensal data will be available. SA2s will have a minimum population of 3,000 and a maximum of 25,000 and an average population of approximately 10,000 people.

Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3) are a medium sized unit with a more variable population from approximately 30,000 to 130,000. They represent a regional break up of each state and territory.

Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) will be used for the release of Labour Force Statistics and will have a population ranging from approximately 100,000 to 500,000. They represent the broadest break up within each state and territory.

Greater Capital City Statistical Areas define the socio-economic extent of each of the state and territory capital cities and consequently extend well beyond the urban edge of the city.

The diagram below summarises the structure of the ASGS.



The second ASGS publication Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 2 - Indigenous Structure (cat. no. 1270.0.55.002) was released on 20 September 2011. The Indigenous Structure of the ASGS provides a geographical standard for the publication of statistics about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Australia.

The third ASGS publication Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003), was released on 22 July 2011. The Non-ABS Structures bring together those regions that are not defined by the ABS, but are important to users of ABS statistics. ABS is committed to providing a range of statistics for these areas.

Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State and the Remoteness Structure require data from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing to be defined. The fourth ASGS publication **Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 4 - Significant**

Urban Area, Urban Centres and Localities and Section of State (cat. no. 1270.0.55.004) will be released in October 2012. The fifth ASGS publication **Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure** (cat. no. 1270.0.55.005) will be released in December 2012.

For further information on the ASGS please visit the ABS Geography web portal at <https://www.abs.gov.au/Geography>.

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The Classification Structures

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ASGC STRUCTURES

The Classification Structures are available as CSV. Excel files on the **Downloads** page in this product. They are also available in **Chapter 10 The Classification Structures** in the pdf of this publication, which is also available for download on the **Downloads** page.

The Classification Structures outlined in the 2011 publication are as follows:

- Main Structure - Broad
- Main Structure - Detailed
- Statistical District Structure
- Local Government Areas and Statistical Local Areas - Alphabetic
- Statistical Region Structure - Broad
- Statistical Region Structure - Detailed

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2011 ASGC MAPS

The final edition of the ASGC includes two different styles of ASGC maps. The traditional, broad overview style maps continue to be available. In addition to these are more detailed colour maps produced at the same standard as the maps included in the publication, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (cat no. 1270.0.55.001). These new maps provide a more detailed picture of the Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and together with the ASGS publication enable some comparison between the most detailed regions in the ASGC and the ASGS Main Structure.

The traditional maps are available within this publication in Chapter 11 - Maps. This publication is available from the **Downloads** page. The traditional maps are also available from the **Downloads** page as a separate pdf called ‘1216.0 – Australia ASGC Edition 2011 pdf maps’.

The new more detailed colour maps are only available as separate pdfs, for each State/Territory,

from the **Downloads** page of this product. For example the maps for New South Wales are called '1216.0 – New South Wales ASGC Edition 2011 pdf maps'.

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Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

ABBREVIATIONS

A	Area
AC	Aboriginal council
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
Adel.	Adelaide
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
B	Borough
Bal	Balance
BSD	Brisbane Statistical Division
C	City
C'maine	Castlemaine
C. Goldfields	Central Goldfields
CD	collection district
DC	District Council
excl.	excluding
E.	East
GCCSA	Greater Capital City Statistical Area
Gr.	Greater
incl.	including
I./Is	Island
LGA	local government area
M'borough	Maryborough
M	Municipality
M. Downs	Murrumba Downs
MB	Mesh Block
MSR	major statistical region
Mt C'tha	Mount Coot-tha
N.	North/Northern
Norw. P'ham St Ptrs	Norwood, Payneham and St Peters
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OT	Other Territories
P'sula	Peninsula
Port Pirie C Dists	Port Pirie City and Districts
Pt	Part
Qld	Queensland
R	Regional Council
RA	Remoteness Area
RC	Rural City
RegC	Regional Council
Res.	Reservoir
S	Shire
S'bank-D'lands	Southbank-Docklands

S'saye	Strathfieldsaye
S C'st	Sunshine Coast
S Dist	statistical district
S.	South/Southern
S/T	state or territory
SA	South Australia
SA1	Statistical Area Level 1
SA2	Statistical Area Level 2
SA3	Statistical Area Level 3
SA4	Statistical Area Level 4
SD	statistical division
SLA	statistical local area
SOS	Section of State
SR	statistical region
SRS	statistical region sector
SSD	statistical subdivision
T	Town
Tas.	Tasmania
UC/L	Urban Centre/Locality
Vic.	Victoria
W.	West
WA	Western Australia
Wtrs	Waters

Information About CSV Files

INFORMATION ABOUT CSV FILES

The product **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), July 2011** (cat no. 1216.0), contains comma-separated value (.csv) files. These files list the codes, labels and hierarchies for the different structures of the ASGC.

There are six .csv files listing the following structures and their geographical hierarchies:

Main Structure (Broad)

- State and Territory (S/T)
- Statistical Division (SD)
- Statistical Subdivision (SSD)

Main Structure (Detailed)

- State and Territory (S/T)
- Statistical Division (SD)
- Statistical Subdivision (SSD)
- Statistical Local Area (SLA)

Statistical District Structure

- Statistical District (SDist)
- Statistical Subdivision (SSD)
- Statistical Local Area (SLA)

Local Government Area Structure

- State and Territory (S/T)
- Local Government Area (LGA)
- Statistical Local Area (SLA)

Statistical Region Structure (Broad)

- State and Territory (S/T)
- Major Statistical Region (MSR)
- Statistical Region (SR)

Statistical Region Structure (Detailed)

- State and Territory (S/T)
- Major Statistical Region (MSR)
- Statistical Region (SR)
- Statistical Region Sector (SRS)
- Statistical Local Area (SLA)

FILE CONTENTS:

The .csv files are for the whole of Australia (with the exception of the SDist. Structure). The hierarchy is listed from the highest level of the 2011 ASGC structure down to the lowest in that structure.

For example the Main Structure Detailed .csv file contains all SLAs within the Main Structure. The file includes the following fields:

- STATE_CODE_2011
- STATE_NAME_2011
- SD_NAME_2011
- SD_CODE_2011
- SSD_NAME_2011
- SSD_CODE_2011
- SLA_NAME_2011
- SLA_5DIGITCODE_2011
- SLA_MAINCODE_2011

Information About ASGC Maps

INFORMATION ABOUT ASGC MAPS

The product **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) July 2011** (cat no. 1216.0), contains Adobe PDF format maps for the regions within the Main Structure.

The final edition of the ASGC includes two different styles of ASGC maps. The traditional, broad overview style maps continue to be available. In addition to these are more detailed colour maps produced at the same standard as the maps included in the publication, Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (cat no. 1270.0.55.001). These new maps provide a more detailed picture of the Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and together with the ASGS publication enable some comparison between the most

detailed regions in the ASGC and the ASGS Main Structure.

The traditional broad overview style maps depict the Main Structure, with a map of Geographic Australia and SD/SSD maps for each State/Territory. Broad overview State/Territory wide maps depicting all SSDs with their respective SLAs are also included. These traditional ASGC maps are available within the ASGC publication and are also available as a separate pdf called ‘1216.0 – Australia ASGC Edition 2011 pdf maps' from the **Downloads** page.

The new maps depict the Main Structure and are broken up by State/Territory. The new maps are presented hierarchically with overall State/Territory maps containing the Statistical Division (SD) boundaries, and individual Statistical Subdivision (SSD) maps containing the Statistical Local Area (SLA) boundaries. The individual SSD maps contain basic information such as major roads and town points for orientation and were created to provide a detailed picture of the SLAs within the SSD.

Due to the geographic locations of the Other Territories a meaningful overall map containing the SD of '910 Other Territories' is not possible. However, individual maps of the SSD including SLAs, are available for the Other Territories.

The new maps are only available as separate pdfs, for each State, from the **Downloads** page of this product. For example, the maps for New South Wales are called ‘1216.0 – New South Wales ASGC Edition 2011 pdf maps’.

Any enquires regarding the ASGC can be made by contacting Geography Section by emailing <geography@abs.gov.au>.

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